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John Johnson.

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H.R. Rep. No. 178, 33d Cong., 1st Sess. (1854)

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JOHN JOHNSON.

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JUNE 10, 1854.—Laid upon the table and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. GREENWOOD, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of John Johnson, esq., asking seven months' compensation as agent for the Wyandott Indians in 1841 and 1842, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report as follows:*

In March, 1841, the memorialist was appointed, by direction of the President, commissioner for the purpose of negotiating a treaty with the Wyandotts. The object of the commission was not finally consummated until the month of March, 1842; in the meanwhile, such seemed to be the peculiar state of affairs at the Wyandott agency, upon the proper regulation of which depended, in a great measure, the success of the negotiation, Mr. Johnson, the memorialist, thought it important to the favorable negotiation of the treaty that he should tender his services to assist in the management of the business of the sub-agent.

The committee deem it proper to state, also, that during the period charged for, from April 1st, 1841, to June 30th, 1842, the Wyandotts had a regularly appointed sub-agent. Upon the representations of the memorialist respecting the conduct and inefficiency of the sub-agent, the Department of the Interior made available the *voluntary* offer and position of the memorialist to assist and control, to a limited extent, the affairs of the sub-agency, but under no circumstances was he to be regarded as acting in a twofold capacity, for which he should receive two measures of compensation, and the memorialist was so informed, and was also informed that he could not receive the appointment of agent so long as he held the appointment of commissioner, because the act of 3d of March, 1839, expressly forbade it. The department did not view the discharge of certain duties pertaining to the sub-agency, which Mr. Johnson voluntarily undertook, in the light of a separate office, as acting agent or otherwise, from that of commissioner to negotiate a treaty. Mr. Johnson while there made two applications for the appointment of sub-agent to the Wyandott Indians.

The memorialist was actually engaged in negotiating the treaty during a considerable part of the time specified in his charge for services as acting agent. Therein he says: "There will be due to me as commissioner for negotiating the treaty with the Wyandotts, for Jan-

uary, February, March, April, and to the 10th of May, 1842—all that time employed—one hundred and thirty days, at \$8 per day, making \$1,040." The committee are of opinion, upon a careful examination of the memorial and evidence, that the memorialist is not entitled to any relief.